

World Food Programme Emergency Report 2006
 Issued Weekly by the United Nations World Food Programme
 Report No. 13 / 2006 - Date 31 March 2006

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(A) Highlights

- (a) In Pakistan, despite food movement being temporarily disrupted due to rain and landslides, WFP reached an estimated 923,000 people with 14,817 tons in March.
- (b) Due to generally average and well distributed rainfall, the 2005/06 harvest in most of the southern Africa region is expected to be significantly larger than the previous agricultural season. However, parts of Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland and eastern Zimbabwe experienced dry spells during the beginning of the year, which threatened crop development.
- (c) In Sudan, between 1 and 26 March, WFP dispatched a total of 16,241 tons of mixed food from logistical hubs to the Darfur region realising 78 percent of the dispatch plan for March.
- (d) In March, WFP Kenya dispatched food for 3.5 million beneficiaries in 25 districts including 535,000 school children. The distribution for March is ongoing and is expected to be completed in the first week of April.
- (e) The number of beneficiaries requiring relief assistance in Ethiopia stands at 2.6 million countrywide: 1.5 million are in the Somali Region and 155,000 are in Borena zone of Oromiya region. Of these, WFP expects to cover 1.7 million people but can cover more if necessary.
- (f) A total of 8,700 tons have been distributed to 520,000 beneficiaries to date in Somalia. The first round of food distribution to 1.1 million drought-affected people should be completed by early April 2006.

(B) Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe: (1) Algeria (2) Occupied Palestinian Territories (3) Pakistan**(1) Algeria**

- (a) Food distribution for the month of March was completed on the 23rd of March. Some 35,000 tons extra have been made available to cover additional needs, as a result of the torrential rains which destroyed large part of the infrastructure in four out of the five

camps more than a months ago.

- (b) WFP and HCR organized a donor mission to the refugee camps south of Tindouf on 15-18 March, which was attended by about 20 representatives from donors and Cooperation Partners. WFP visited the three camps: Smara, and Dakhla camps. Two camps were severely damaged by the February floods; people have however already started reconstruction.
- (c) The food supply situation remains very fragile with shortfalls in wheat flour and sugar foreseen for the month of April, if further pledges are not confirmed in the next two weeks. Some 6000 tons of security stock could be drawn down from this stock as loan, which would prevent pipeline breakdown next month.

(2) Occupied Palestinian Territories

- (a) The Security situation reached an all-time low in March in oPt. Hostilities in Jericho sparked an unprecedented surge of kidnappings in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (including one ICRC staff member and a number of NGO staff) and attacks against property of the International Community. Field operations were temporarily suspended over 13-14th March owing to security concerns.
- (b) The situation has since calmed and operations have returned with a heightened warning for American and British citizens. The reaction to the Jericho incident shows how volatile the current situation is; this is still a very high risk anywhere outside Gaza City. The Gaza Security Management Team has stated that Gaza is likely to stay at phase 4 up to the end of 2006. The West Bank security situation remained volatile.
- (c) The security situation has affected WFP Country Programmes in Gaza Strip. Notably the head of MOA office in middle Gaza was kidnapped for several hours on 27th March. Whilst MOA confirmed that this was not related to WFP food distribution, MOA was requested to postpone future distribution in the Middle area until there are guarantees for the safety of both WFP and MOA staff. CHF are realigning their programme avoiding all contacts with the municipalities in line with new USAID regulations.
- (d) Successive closures since the start of the year have led to widespread food shortages and price increases with a high impact on the vulnerable Gaza population. The shortage reached a peak over the weekend of 17-19 March when the few bakeries that remained open introduced rationing to people waiting in long queues outside their premises. The access restrictions severely limited WFP and UNRWAs ability to reach the most food insecure population as both agencies rely on the depleted Palestinian mills for Wheat Flour. WFP met with all authorities concerned. WFP also issued a statement to the press and met with members of the donor community to advocate for facilitated passage of food to Gaza.
- (e) As of 21st March, Israel agreed to re-open Karni crossings in a deal closely monitored by the US Mission. In addition WFP is now in the process of preparing a shipment of 1,000 tons of Wheat Flour to enter Gaza Strip through the complementary entry corridor of Kerem Shalom through Egypt in the coming days. Food shortages in Gaza are by no means over and it is essential that both entry corridors (Karni and Kerem Shalom) remain open so that essential food aid shipments to Gaza may continue.
- (f) Curfews and closures continue to impede Palestinian access to work. The West Bank and Gaza Strip were closed to workers and traders from 12th March over Purim and the Israeli elections, workers and traders with valid permits were not allowed access to Israel and East Jerusalem for 60 percent of the reporting period despite reassurances. There were curfews affecting Nablus, Jericho and Qalqilia throughout the reporting period – in the last week (15-21st March) alone there were 38 hours of curfew reported.
- (g) Karni and Kerem Shalom (commercial crossings to Gaza Strip) have been open for

nearly one week (21 – 27 March), although not at full capacity, allowing much needed basic food supplies to enter the Gaza Strip. Karni closed on 28 March because of heightened Israeli security concerns over the Knesset elections. Over the course of the last week, a serious improvement in incoming commercial flow through Karni was noted. However the level of food stocks is still low. The two WFP Gaza based mills under WFP contract have currently in stock 570Mt meanwhile they still have outstanding orders for 8,100 Mt. As of 29 March, Karni crossing had been closed for 46 days in 2006 or 53% of the year.

- (h) UN National Staff remain currently unable to cross through Erez crossing owing to security procedures still under discussion; UN national staff in the West Bank also faced increased access restrictions.
- (i) The new Hamas Government has been sworn in; whilst the US and Canadian positions are clear other donors are still hesitating with a clear statement regarding their policy. The financial situation of the PNA remains critical and the 150,000 employees remain uncertain of future payments.
- (j) On the Israeli side the new centrist party, Kadima, formed by Ariel Sharon, came out as leader in the Israeli elections with 28 seats in the Knesset (of 120), much less than the polls predicted; Labour came second with 20 seats and Shas (the Orthodox Jewish party) third with 13 seats. The president will now assign a Prime Minister who will have 60 days to form his coalition of 61 seats.
- (k) The Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture officially confirmed (22 March 2006) the presence of H5N1 strain of the Avian Influenza virus in bird samples taken from a poultry farms in Juhr Al Deik (Gaza city) and in Rafah. Culling is underway under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture. No human cases have been confirmed so far. The outbreak threatens over 24 million poultry in the Gaza Strip. This in turn affects the livelihoods of farmers and labourers in the culled farms, some 25,000 rural families (150,000 individuals, owners of small shops, poor consumers).
- (l) Under the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10387, basic food needs of both the Social Hardship Cases (SHC) and New Poor (NP) will be met through distribution of monthly family rations. While the SHC will receive relief food as part of the MSA programme, 'new poor' beneficiaries will receive food through participation in food for work (FFW) and food for training (FFT) activities implemented through CRS, CHF and MOA. The most vulnerable individuals living in institutions will be provided a daily food ration through the MSA in Gaza Strip and CRS in West Bank.
- (m) In West Bank, the third distribution cycle for the SHC started throughout the West Bank. A total of 10,302 chronically poor households received 1185 tons of mixed food commodities throughout the West Bank during the reporting period under the November -December allocation.
- (n) In Gaza Strip, a total of 666 tons of WFP food was distributed to 5818 HH of SHCs through MSA in Gaza and Northern Gaza (January/ February allocation).
- (o) West Bank cooperating partners started food distribution in the Northern governorates, as part of the second phase of the FFW/T project (January-March). During reporting period a total of 22,124 new poor families received a total of 2,481 tons of mixed food commodities through CRS, CHF, MoA, in the West Bank governorates.
- (p) In Gaza Strip 72 tons of food was distributed to 3733 farmer's households through the MOA for the Jan-Feb allocation. 246 tons of food was distributed to 36,612 unemployed workers households through CHF (Nov/Dec and part of Jan allocation). CHF have adjusted their programme to work more closely with NGOs in place of the municipalities in line with new USAID regulations. CHF is also targeting more women in the FFW/T.
- (q) Port Ashdod arrivals include: 652 tons of wheat flour, oil and chickpeas were delivered

to Country Programme warehouses in Gaza Strip, 4557 tons of mixed commodities were delivered to CPs in West Bank. WFP managed to deliver total of 16 containers to Gaza through Karni on 22 and 23 March. Logistics finished the assessment of Kerem Shalom terminal assessment, preparation for test shipment of 1,000 tons of wheat flour was under way.

- (r) VAM and UNICEF have been working on creating maps indicating needs and UNICEF's response to vulnerability by mapping specific areas. Two maps are being in a draft format. WFP logo will be added to reflect the joint work. These maps will be used by UNICEF for communication purpose to donors. Bilateral meetings continue with UNRWA and FAO on a technical level.

(3) Pakistan

- (a) During the reporting period (22-28 March), the general situation in Pakistan was calm. However, the continued insurgency in North Waziristan and Balochistan was of growing concern. The International UN staff continued to be escorted in North West Frontier province (NWFP) on all road missions.
- (b) The snowline has receded significantly since its maximum on 19 January and no significant further snowfall is forecast at this moment. However, heavy rains continued to hamper relief efforts in some areas and have caused fatal landslides for the local population and UN staff. Several roads remain blocked. Road access is expected to remain limited for some time due to ongoing landslides. According to the International Landslide Center/Landslide Observatory Open File Report, the snow melt could result in further landslides in April, with a second round of landslides during the July monsoon season. It could take several months to repair and open primary and secondary roads.
- (c) Despite food movement being temporarily disrupted due to countrywide strikes and demonstrations in early March and the fact that rain and landslides continue to affect food deliveries, WFP has reached an estimated 923,000 people with 14,817 tons in March.
- (d) WFP Executive Board recently cleared the two-year Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), which will commence on the 1st of April. About 670,000 homeless people will be provided with food as they return to rebuild community infrastructure. School Feeding will maintain attendance and address short-term hunger for 450,000 children. WFP will work with UNOPS in road clearance and related areas. These interventions will be undertaken in remote villages where food production, access to markets, employment and credit facilities will be constrained until basic infrastructures and trade can be restored. The operational requirement for the PRRO is \$US 67,849,078 or 113,648 tons of food.
- (e) In the nine targeted Union Councils (UCs) of Bagh, food distribution for the month of March was completed. A total of 2,593 tons of mixed food was distributed to 163,133 persons. Thus, this marks the end of EMOP distribution which is to be followed by WFP's recovery programme in the PRRO starting on the 1st of April. Food distribution in the remaining 11 camps (out of 15) have resumed after disruption in distribution due to rain. Some 42 percent comprising of 3,626 persons have already received their ration. The distribution is expected to be completed by the 31st of March for the remaining 5,000 persons. As per official announcement of the Deputy Commissioner, Bagh camp inhabitants are to return to their place of origin by the 31st of March. However, there has been some spontaneous movement of returnees from the camps. The bulk of the population as reported is preparing to avail assistance from UN agencies with regard to transport. UNHCR has started registering the intending returnees. The movement sponsored by UN agencies is likely to start by April 1 2006.
- (f) WFP has distributed to a total of 43,419 beneficiaries in all tented camps in Ghari

Habibullah district on UNHCR/Regional Relief Commissioner list. Total caseload for School Feeding program is 30,163 students. The caseload is divided in two categories, caseload of 22,181 is regular students of government schools and 7,982 are the students in UNICEF supported tented schools. Camp feeding was completed for March during the previous reporting period. Food distribution to Kaghan Union Council was completed for March during the reporting period. 123 tons of food was dropped by helicopter in Muzaffarabad. Gari Habibullah Camp will close next week.

- (g) During the reporting period, 757 tons of mixed food commodities were distributed to 44,460 beneficiaries in Battagram (Allai), Mansehra (Kala Dhaka) Shangla and planned camps. 582 tons of mixed food commodities from Battagram, 300 tons from Chattarplain and 7 tons from Abbotabad warehouses were dispatched to Allai, Palas, Dassu, Kala Dhaka, Alpuri, Besham, Chakisar and planned camps. Dispatches for March distribution continues with 90 percent done in Battagram and completion in Chattarplain. Rub Halls in Battagram being emptied in preparation for closure. Planned repatriation continued from Camps during the reporting period. WFP has already provided March ration to all the camps. General Food Distribution for 32,000 beneficiaries of Besham and Chakisar Tehsil continued. 100 tons of UNIMIX (fortified wheat flour) has been delivered to different distribution points.
- (h) Bad weather conditions continued to disrupt road and air deliveries to the valleys. Preparations for the PRRO ongoing. Consultative meetings and joint assessments being conducted with potential Government, UN and NGO partners. WFP held another consultative meeting with the AJK Government on the way forward for the PRRO. All the programme components within the PRRO were discussed. A follow-up meeting was held with the Education Secretary on 28 March. An agreement on the implementation of School Feeding was reached. Dispatches to all but 3 Extended Delivery Points were completed. Space for both Food and Non Food Items shipped and procured for the PRRO has been allocated in the warehouse.
- (i) The Emergency Operation (EMOP) is resourced 77 percent against the appeal and the PRRO is currently resourced 6.7 percent against the appeal of \$US 67,849,078.
- (j) The deliveries from the hubs to extended delivery points from 20-26 March 2006 amount to 1,807 tons, out of which 482 tons were delivered by air.
- (k) Currently, UNHAS funding is due to run out 31 March. The current shortfall of the project is US\$18 million, taking into account the implementation of cost recovery through passenger payments and a large reduction in flights. Due to the lack of donor funding and government dismissal, a rapid reduction of assets deployed has taken place and UNHAS is now down from 28 to 13 helicopters. All UNHAS helicopters will stop operations on the 31 March. However 4 MI8s operating through UNHAS as an in kind donation will continue their operations until 4th of May. Since the start of the air operations, UNHAS has airlifted 20,262 tons of Food Items, 6,614 tons of Non-Food Items and 31,030 passengers.

(C) East & Central Africa: (1) Burundi (2) Congo (3) Congo, DR (4) Ethiopia (5) Kenya (6) Rwanda (7) Somalia (8) Sudan (9) Tanzania (10) Uganda

(1) Burundi

- (a) The country's remaining rebel group, the Forces Nationales de Liberation (FNL) led by Agathon Rwasa, announced on 11 March in the Tanzanian capital Dar es Salaam that they are ready to hold unconditional peace negotiations with the Burundian Government. Previously, the FNL had declined to hold talks with the government, arguing that it had not taken part in general elections held in the country in 2005. It was only after preliminary contacts by the Tanzanian Government that the movement

recently agreed to unconditional peace talks.

- (b) Burundi's main opposition Hutu party FRODEBU said on Saturday it was withdrawing from a national unity government, causing a blow to reconciliation efforts after the civil war but unlikely to disrupt the ruling coalition. FRODEBU accused President Pierre Nkurunziza's coalition of failing to abide by a constitutional agreement on power sharing and failing to promote democracy. FRODEBU's main complaint is that the cabinet is dominated by ministers from the President's party, the former rebel Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD). Although the President gave Hutus 60 percent of cabinet posts and 40 percent to Tutsis as stipulated in the constitution, FRODEBU says most of the Hutu posts went to FDD members.
- (c) Between 20 and 26 March, WFP distributed 1,350 tons of food aid to 265,866 beneficiaries. This will further increase as the new round of targeted food distributions is gearing up. The intervention plan remains to gear up assistance to approximately 10,500 tons of food to be distributed on a monthly basis in April, May and June, just before the harvest when the food shortage will be at its peak.
- (d) Preliminary data extracted from the nutritional surveys conducted by NGOs in drought-affected areas indicate a situation precarious but not alarming. The main concern of the Country Office remains the negative coping mechanisms adopted at the household level in order to face food shortages. Food aid will contribute to cushioning the extended lean season until the next harvest in June/July.
- (e) In regard to the alleged population displacements "provoked by hunger" from Burundi to Tanzania, it should be noted that seasonal migrations in search for work (Burundian manpower being "cheaper" than Tanzanian and Rwandan) take place every year during the lean season. This movement is more important this year as the country is facing an extended lean season. However, it seems that a portion of this migrating population is going directly to UNHCR camps on the other side of the border in Tanzania in search for regular/monthly food rations. Nutritional data such as severe malnutrition and mortality rates in the areas of origin of these migrants, mainly from Ruyigi province, are below crisis rates. This migration to refugee camps is one of the negative coping mechanisms. WFP plans to gear up its targeted distributions level in these areas.
- (f) As of 27 March 2006, WFP in-country stocks stood at 5,977 tons of food with an additional 324 tons still to be offloaded from trucks and barges. The volume of food en route to Burundi, mainly through regional purchase, is important. However, recent indication that regional purchases in Uganda could be jeopardized due to limited food stocks in the region and increased prices could delay some arrivals.

(2) Congo

- (a) On 21 March, a storm damaged houses and removed roofs of around hundred family shelters in Kindamba in the Pool region. At the request of the government, WFP assisted these families by providing a four-day ration, consisting of rice, vegetable oil, beans and salt.

(3) Congo, DR

- (a) Access to beneficiaries significantly decreased in the Ituri district due to the deterioration of the security situation. Humanitarian workers were advised not to use two major transport corridors, Bunia-Bogoro-Kagaba-Aveba-Tchomia and the Bunia-Katoto-Blukwa. The large majority of food insecure Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees are accessible only through these routes. Meanwhile, the Bunia-Marabo-Komanda-Beni corridor can be used only under military escort.
- (b) Clashes between Government troops and Mai Mai militia and subsequent significant

displacement on the Kiwanja-Kibirizi-Rwindi-Kanyabayonga were reported in the Rutshuru territory (North Kivu province)

- (c) In the South Kivu province, the caseload of IDPs on the Kalehe-Minova axis has increased from 5,718 households last week to 6,011; the IDPs are looking for shelter to escape actions by Forces Démocratique pour la Libération du Rwanda (FDLR) and government troops. An increase in the number of IDPs has also been reported in Burhinyi, however the exact figure is not known yet. A large concentration of IDPs in Mulamba has been reported to the IDPs committee, which is planning an inter-agency mission to assess the situation.
- (d) In the Katanga province, 81 tons of food were distributed to 18,000 IDPs in Nyonga. An additional 40 tons will be provided to the IDPs once a railway engine will be available to transport the food to Bukama station. In Mutabi & Dubie, WFP's Cooperating Partner started the food distribution to 13,000 IDPs.
- (e) In the Ituri district, 3,200 displaced households fleeing confrontations between government troops and militias were identified by German Agro Action in Kotoni, some 15 km from Bunia. They were provided with 135 tons of WFP food to cover their food needs for one month.
- (f) In the North Kivu province WFP's Cooperating Partner, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), distributed 270 tons of various food commodities to 33,000 IDPs. In the coming weeks, WFP and NRC are planning food distribution to an additional caseload of 25,000 IDPs settled in Vuhovi.
- (g) In the South Kivu province, 156 tons of food were distributed, targeting mostly IDPs, school feeding programmes and nutritional programmes. An additional 25 tons were released to assist 501 returnees from Tanzania.
- (h) In the Maniema province, WFP's Cooperating Partners distributed 11 tons to 1,700 beneficiaries who were mostly malnourished children and HIV/AIDS infected people.

(4) Ethiopia

- (a) Monitoring of the belg rain performance (short rainy season) continues, and is so far reportedly poor in northern part of the country. Belg rains were delayed by 2 weeks from the normal onset in south Tigray (the only belg growing zone in the region) whereas in Amhara region, belg crop growing areas started receiving rains up to two months late compared to normal years. Consequently, planted areas have significantly decreased, with only 5-42 percent of belg areas reportedly planted so far. Planted crops are still at a very early stage compared to what is expected at this time in a "normal" year. In northern parts of Somali region, about 1-5 days of rainfall were observed during the second week of March. Moreover Moyale district of Liben zone has received good rains from 22-25 March, while Garbo district of Fik zone reportedly received some average rains during the 3rd dekad of March. Galadid and Shekosh districts of Korahe zone have received light showers during the 1st dekad of March. The performance of belg rains is rated as good in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) and in the Hararge area of Oromiya region.
- (b) In Borena zone of Oromiya region, a government-led joint emergency assessment mission has been completed and is now finalizing its findings. The main objective of this mission was to conduct a rapid assessment of the current food security situation of the zone and to review the beneficiary figures that were set during last year's main emergency assessment, conducted in December. The preliminary findings of the mission indicate that the southern parts of the zone (Moyale, Miyo, partly Dire, Teltele and Arero districts) are facing serious drought conditions, especially with regards to water supply and pasture availability. Massive cattle death was confirmed by the mission. Recent rains received in these districts were not sufficient for regeneration of

pasture and water and will have to increase in amount and distribution if improvements of the current stress situation can be expected. In the northern parts of the zone (Dugda-dawa, Bole-Hora, Gelana, Abaya, partly Teltele, Arero, Yabello and Dire districts) conditions were found to be relatively better. These areas received unseasonable rains in the middle of February and as a consequence browse has rejuvenated and some water points have been replenished. The final decision on revised beneficiary figures for Borena zone is expected shortly.

- (c) The number of beneficiaries requiring assistance stands at 2.6 million for relief countrywide: 1.5 million are in the Somali Region and 155,000 are in Borena zone of Oromiya region. Of these, WFP expects to cover 1.7 million people but can cover more if necessary through the contingency mechanism pre-approved in WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation 10362.0 "Enabling livelihood protection and promotion". In addition, between 7.2 and 8.3 million chronically food-insecure people are to be covered under food or cash transfer of the Productive Safety Net Programme in 2006. The beneficiaries in the drought-affected southeastern parts of the country are receiving both a general ration and blanket supplementary feeding. Targeted supplementary feeding is also operational in parts of both Somali region and Borena zone: nutrition screening undertaken by UNICEF in collaboration with the regional Bureau of Health is completed, food dispatches have started and WFP is planning to start the new round of distributions shortly. Dispatches of relief food are continuing, with 32 percent of the food allocated in February transported to Somali region and 84 percent to Oromiya region (with Borena's dispatches having reached 67 percent). WFP field monitors report that most of the food allocated in January has arrived at final distribution points and has been distributed.
- (d) The national relief food pipeline is covered only to June, when cereals will run out unless new contributions are confirmed. Requirements in pastoral areas have been formally assessed only to June, and reassessments in June/July will confirm the needs for the second half of the year; this follows normal practice in Ethiopia. However, requirements for July-December can increase substantially compared to the requirements issued in January for the annual humanitarian appeal. Many of the beneficiaries currently receiving assistance are likely to require a continuation of assistance during July-December, which will increase the relief food needs and other requirements substantially. Donors are urged to confirm contributions currently under negotiation and to pledge new contributions to cover anticipated humanitarian needs in the second half of the year.

(5) Kenya

- (a) On 29 March, a WFP driver who was on her way to Kakuma refugee camps was caught in a heavy clash between Kenya security personnel and heavily armed cattle raiders along the Kitale-Lodwar road in north-western Kenya. Fortunately the staff member was not injured. Tension is very high in that area. Security forces are still pursuing the bandits and conducting patrols to avert more attacks. A travel advisory was enforced and will remain in force until UN confirms with the Kenya security forces that the area is safe for staff to travel. The road serves WFP's drought emergency operation, school feeding and Kakuma refugee camps in Turkana District, as well as the south Sudan operation.
- (b) In February/early March, WFP scaled up its operation and reached 2.4 million people in 17 districts; in March, WFP dispatched food for 3.5 million beneficiaries in 25 districts including 535,000 school children. The distribution for March is ongoing and is expected to be completed in the first week of April.
- (c) The food security situation in the North-Eastern districts, and particularly Mandera and

Wajir, is deteriorating. There are continued reports of livestock deaths, and in addition to the loss of cattle there are increasingly frequent reports of camel deaths. Recent nutrition surveys indicate 21 to 27 percent malnutrition rates among children in some parts of Mandera District. WFP is expanding its assistance to Mandera and Wajir in order to provide food aid for 80 percent of the population of all the rural divisions for the month of March.

- (d) WFP will use a US\$ 3.6 million grant from UN's Central Emergency Response Fund to provide much needed 5,300 tons of fortified food for the most vulnerable populations in nine pastoralist districts from April through June. The fortified food (corn-soya blend) will be distributed to households with children under five and/or pregnant and lactating women. Out of a total of 1.4 million beneficiaries in the worst hit districts (Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit, Moyale, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana and Wajir), almost 400,000 women and children will receive the fortified food, purchased in Kenya.
- (e) As at end March, the WFP Emergency Operation has received US\$ 78 million or some 35 percent of the requirements. WFP urgently needs further pledges, especially cash, to keep providing cereals and to restore fortified food, vegetable oil and pulses to the full ration. The remaining shortfall for the March 2006 to February 2007 operational requirements is US\$147 million.
- (f) Substantial rainfall occurred in the western, southern and coastal areas of the country from the last week of February through the third week of March. The western parts of the country in particular, received heavy rains during the entire period and flooding has occurred in some districts along the lakeshore. The rainfall spread to other areas such as parts of southeastern lowlands, including the drought affected Kajiado and Narok Districts. Some showers were also reported in the drought-affected Marsabit, Moyale, Baringo, Mwingi, Kitui, Isiolo, Garissa and Turkana districts. However, the amount and distribution is insufficient to significantly alleviate current drought conditions.
- (g) High livestock mortality is being experienced in most of the arid districts, and it is estimated that more than 50 percent of the cattle, 30 percent of sheep and goats, and 15 percent of camels have died due to lack of water and forage. Large areas are littered with dead animals. This will pose health hazard when the rains starts.

(6) Rwanda

- (a) Sorghum has emerged in some parts of Bugesera district, especially in Nyamata due to recent rains. However, in Gashora and Ngenda, the sorghum planted in January has wilted and been replaced by beans.
- (b) According to the Ruhuha Catholic Parish, over 1,300 families from Ngenda, Bugesera district, migrated either to Burundi or to other provinces of Rwanda and 27 people died of hunger. Some children have stayed behind while their parents migrated in search of food. Schools in Bugesera remain open thanks to the WFP school-feeding assistance.
- (c) The joint Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment conducted in the whole country by WFP (Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping), in collaboration with FEWSNET, the Government Rwanda and NGO partners continues. Results are expected in late April/early May.
- (d) The number of asylum seekers in Nkamira remains at 1,298 and the population in the other camps is stable with the number of Congolese refugees currently totalling 41,002. The Burundian refugee population at Nyamure and Kigeme camps remained the same at 2,569.
- (e) Around 413 tons of mixed commodities were distributed to 22,782 refugees in Gihembe, Nyabiheke and Kigeme camps as a one-month ration. A total of 153 returnees from DRC passed through Nkamira and Nyagatare transit camps and

received a three-month ration before being transferred to their home communities.

(7) Somalia

- (a) To date a total of 8,700 tons have been distributed to 520,000 beneficiaries as drought response. In addition, 8,500 tons of food have been transported from WFP warehouses in Somalia for imminent distributions. It is expected that the first round of food distribution to 1.1 million drought-affected people will be completed by early April 2006. As part of the emergency relief interventions, 2,115 tons is being distributed through Food-for-Work and selective feeding activities to about 120,000 beneficiaries under Bakool region.
- (b) In general, emergency distributions are going as per plan and efforts are ongoing to complete distributions as early as possible. Positive feedback from various locations has been received on the successful food aid distribution. Experiences on the food distribution modality were shared with elders from Afmadow district of Lower Juba region.
- (c) Field level data collection has been completed for the inter-agency nutrition assessment of Gedo Region conducted by Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU), WFP, UNICEF and Gedo Health Consortium. The report is expected to be available by mid April. Another inter-agency nutrition assessment mission is planned for the Middle Juba region from 1 to 13 April 2006. In addition, WFP is discussing with FSAU to undertake nutrition assessment for Afmadow district of Lower Juba region.
- (d) The media mission to Bay and Bakool regions, organized in consultation with the WFP Regional Information Office, is now in the field to observe the overall drought situation in South Somalia, including the ongoing WFP emergency food distribution.
- (e) Available WFP food stocks and confirmed new funding amount to 82,000 tons, leaving a shortfall of some 98,000 tons compared to the total 180,000 tons requirement in 2006.

(8) Sudan

- (a) During the reporting period (12-28 March), reinforcements of rebel and government forces were reported in the east of North Darfur with clashes in Haskanita that resulted in further instability and localised displacement of resident populations. The United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) is in the process of confirming the impact of the reports in advance of an anticipated humanitarian assessment. Further clashes were reported during the fortnight between SLA factions in Korma, rural El Fasher which led to the suspension of food distributions in the area. A subsequent security assessment conducted on 25 March by UNDSS and WFP Security recommended that the vicinity remain 'no-go' to UN staff.
- (b) Armed clashes were reported in the Abu Soroug area to the north of El Geneina in West Darfur on two occasions during the reporting period, between villagers and armed militia, which resulted in at least eight fatalities. A subsequent security assessment carried out by WFP Security and UNDSS on the El Geneina – Kondobe – Bir Dageeg – Abu Soroug road concluded the stretch to be open to humanitarian access. A similar mission is scheduled to be undertaken in Arara, Beida and Kongo Haraza by the end of the month.
- (c) In Jebel Marra, the African Union confirmed attacks by armed militia on the villages of Daya, Tibon and Sorrong resulting in heavy fighting, looting (including a GOAL clinic) and numerous fatalities. A joint UNDSS/OCHA team, acting as part of a response to reports of a meningitis outbreak in Kelling, was stopped by armed men in Guildo, Jebel Marra. Personal effects and cash were taken, although no casualties reported.
- (d) On 21 March, armed men forced entry into an INGO compound in El Geneina and took

cash and communications equipment. No injuries were reported.

- (e) Tensions remained high in the Gereida locality in south Darfur during the reporting period with reports of violent demonstrations at the African Union camp resulting in property being damaged and stolen. Militia attacks on villages in the vicinity continued to be reported, resulting in a number of deaths of soldiers and civilians, livestock being looted and continued displacements to Gereida town, which is estimated to be currently in excess of 90,000 IDPs.
- (f) In Western Equatoria, On 19 March, an armed group attacked the UNMIS compound in Yambio town, injuring two UNMIS Peace Keepers. The gunmen were reported to have attacked at least two other NGO compounds. UN and NGO staff were relocated. Subsequently humanitarian activities have been suspended until further notice.
- (g) The general security situation in Eastern Equatoria remained calm with no major security incidents reported during the reporting period. However, most parts of Torit, Budi and Lafon counties are still under UN security Phase Four due to suspected Lord Resistance Army's activities. Furthermore, road travel between Khiyala, Torit and Juba still requires armed escort. WFP is requesting UNMIS escort for food distribution teams to thirteen locations in Torit and Lafon counties for the period late March-mid April 2006.
- (h) A tense security situation was reported in Old Fangak, Pochalla and Pibor counties in Jonglei following political disputes. The tension resulted in relocation of two WFP staff who were waiting for barge deliveries in Old Fangak on 19 March. As a result, WFP food distributions in Gumruk and Pochalla were suspended.
- (i) A WFP security team visited Bor and Mabior to discuss the security situation there with local authorities. The team reported an improved security situation.
- (j) In Bahr El Ghazal, the general security situation in Wau was reportedly calm except for some minor security incidents that occurred at the new site of WFP warehouses. An unidentified group of people threw stones at WFP security guards and a failed theft attempt took place during the reporting period. Local authorities are currently investigating both incidents.
- (k) The general security situation was reportedly calm in most locations in Unity State. However, an incident took place in Pakur village, located 105 km from Bentiu, where one soldier was killed. In addition, fire remains a security threat in Bentiu town as more than 25 families have become displaced when their houses were burnt down.
- (l) A conflict erupted between the Government of South Sudan and civilians and resulted in suspension of WFP's activities in Mirmir, Koch and Rubkual. The cause of the conflict could not be immediately established, but is under investigation by the UN police and UNMIS Peace Keepers.
- (m) The overall security situation in Upper Nile was calm except for reported skirmishes between Arab nomads and Shilluks in Ogot resulting in seven deaths. In Doma, seven other deaths were reported as a result of fighting between the Nuer Lou and Dinka over cattle raiding. Subsequently, the UN Security raised Nasir area to UN Security Phase Four as of 15 March.
- (n) A group of armed residents forced a WFP food distribution team in Zurzur distribution center, along Meluth area, to release an additional 7 tons of food commodities. They claimed inadequacy of the food allocated by WFP to meet the increased needs of the vulnerable residents and returnees. WFP informed local authorities of the incident and highlighted the necessity of providing protection to WFP staff during distributions in Zurzur.
- (o) On 19 March, a Shilluk policemen shot at a GOAL vehicle when the driver did not stop at the Shiluk police post in Yumo village. Consequently, two staff members were seriously injured and evacuated to Khartoum to receive medical treatment. The Sudan

Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and humanitarian agencies, including WFP, in Malakal formed a committee to investigate the incident.

- (p) According to UNMIS and UNDSS, the security situation in Mapear was declared safe for humanitarian operations. In early March, an inter-clan conflict between Agar Dinka and Luach Dinka, over grazing land, resulted in several fatalities, loss of assets and displacement. WFP will provide food assistance to the affected population.
- (q) Movement restrictions continued to hinder UN humanitarian activities in Kassala. Restricted movement is caused by lack of compliance to the UNMIS' Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) by local authorities, as local travel permits are still being requested from UN Agencies. UNMIS and OCHA met with the Wali of Kassala who insisted on requesting travel permits as long as it is a requirement by authorities in Khartoum.
- (r) The overall security situation in Blue Nile remained calm during the reporting period. The clashes that were reported during the fortnight between the SPLA and some armed groups in Yabus area were over collection of gum Arabic in forests were resolved.
- (s) Movement and access to some areas of operation remain a challenge due to land mine threats. The Dindero-Kurmuk road remained a 'no-go' to UN staff following a landmine incident on 2 March. According to UN Mine Action Office (UNMAO), two additional land mines were found on the same road. Mine clearance of the road will be completed on 8 April.
- (t) The Nyama-Diffra–Abyei road was declared 'go' area by UNDSS on 18 March after being closed for more than a week, as a result of a clash between two factions of the former South Sudan Defence Forces (SSDF) militia that resulted in eleven fatalities. Restriction of movement imposed by local authorities to locations north of Abyei town is still in effect. Despite the low level of tension in Abyei area, there is a reported increase in the number of armed men in and around Abyei town for the second consecutive week. Existing tension and restriction of movement continues to hinder WFP activities.
- (u) Fieldwork for a study commissioned by WFP to assess the impact of the Darfur conflict on the livelihoods of people across the region commenced in North Darfur during the reporting period. The purpose of the study is to enhance understanding of the extent that livelihoods and markets have adapted to the current conflict and assess the impact of food aid on livelihoods. Recommendations will be made on how livelihoods can be best supported in the current context of violence and insecurity and indications of how they may be affected as the situation evolves under various scenarios. Fieldwork for the assessment, which will both make specific recommendations to WFP and be of relevance to the wider humanitarian community, started on 25 March in El Fasher IDP camps.
- (v) Development and reconstruction has so far been limited in South Darfur since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005. The Government of South Sudan faces enormous administrative challenges, in terms of physical infrastructure, administrative systems and human resources. A donor meeting convened on 10 March revealed that out of a total of 4.5 billion dollars pledged for all of Sudan for a three-year period, following the signing of the CPA, only 50 million dollars has been spent on development projects, while more than 1.1 billion dollars has been spent on relief.
- (w) Findings from a nutrition survey in Bentiu and Rubkona locations show high rates of malnutrition in Unity State. ACF conducted the survey from 16 to 24 February, targeting children under five years. A Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 18.2 percent was reported in Bentiu and 20 percent in Rubkona. While Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) was 1.5 percent in Bentiu, and 1.3 percent in Rubkona. The malnutrition rates in both locations typically are above the global emergency threshold and are expected to increase during the approaching hunger period. According to ACF, these locations

typically have a problem of chronic malnutrition. Main causes for that have been identified as chronic food shortages, inadequate potable water, harmful traditional child-care practices and poor sanitation. ACF plans to address the problem through home visits to increase awareness on causes and treatment of malnutrition at the household level, and by advocating long-term investment in health, education and infrastructure. WFP continues to support ACF supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes in Bentiu and Rubkona.

- (x) Food security in South Sudan is expected to deteriorate significantly between now and August, despite recent improved crop production. The situation is particularly critical in Bahr El Ghazal where livestock conditions are reportedly deteriorating and resource-based conflicts intensified in recent months. A total of 1.9 million people (excluding expected returnees) require 75,000 tons of food aid this year. While food aid is crucial to some households, the chronic nature of food insecurity and malnutrition will continue to demand long-term and multi-sectoral interventions.
- (y) WFP Regional Director (RD) visited Red Sea and Kassala states in Eastern Sudan, from 27-29 March. The visit includes meetings with the state Walis, state Ministers of Education and Health, as well as visits to different WFP-supported projects such as assistance to tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS patients in Kassala hospital, literacy programme at Biryai and general food distribution to the female-headed households in Fatu IDP camps. The visit was however affected by the continuing movement restrictions in Kassala.
- (z) WFP and Cooperating Partners briefed local authorities and humanitarian agencies on the preliminary findings of the Nutrition and Food Security survey that was conducted South Kordofan from 28 January to 12 February 2006. The survey was implemented by 50 participants including UNICEF, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, Save the Children-US and Medair. Preliminary findings show an overall Global Acute Malnutrition Rate of 13.4 percent and a satisfactory maternal nutritional status (3% MUAC). These nutritional results indicate that poor nutritional rates are not the result of inadequate food but of health status, feeding practices and incidence of illness, particularly among children. WFP food assistance was reportedly appropriately targeted during 2005 when more food insecure areas received a higher proportion of food assistance.
- (aa) WFP together with FAO and other Cooperating Partners are developing a joint plan for provision of assistance to beneficiaries in Abyei. WFP and FAO established a Food Security and Food Aid and Livelihood forum through which food aid and food security issues will be discussed. Seeds and tools provided by FAO will be distributed, through partners using WFP verification figures, along with WFP's April food distribution.
- (ab) Between 1 and 26 March, WFP dispatched a total of 16,241 tons of mixed food from logistical hubs to the Darfur region realising 78 percent of the dispatch plan for March. This includes 3,267 tons of cereals dispatched to El Geneina from Abéché (Chad). As yet there have been no air deliveries to the Darfur region in 2006. During the reporting period, WFP's 6x6 fleet transported a total of 4,619 tons of food in the three Darfur states.
- (ac) WFP dispatched a total of 1,002 tons of food from Uganda and Kenya during the reporting period. Some 711 tons was delivered by road from Lokichoggio in Kenya to various locations in South Sudan. There were no dispatches by air. Another 291 tons was dispatched by road from Koboko/Tororo into South Sudan.
- (ad) In West Darfur, refugees continued to arrive in Habilah during the reporting period following fighting across the border in Chad. On 22 March, and in collaboration with UNHCR, WFP and SC-US distributed food for one month totalling 14 tons to 789 vulnerable Chadian refugees in the locality. Coordination regarding cross-border

movements was ongoing during the fortnight. WFP participated in an interagency meeting in Abéché (Chad) to develop a preparedness strategy to meet the humanitarian needs of an estimated 15,000 people expected to move between eastern Chad and western Sudan, and vice versa, in the coming months.

- (ae) WFP and CARE conducted a joint rapid needs assessment in Thur camp, Jebel Marra, in response to reports of humanitarian need in the area. Due to the presence of opposing parties to the conflict in the vicinity, Thur is typically tense with reduced opportunities for access and building livelihoods. An estimated 12,000 people, 85 percent of whom displaced, were noted during the assessment to be facing critical food shortages as well as a lack of other humanitarian services, primarily water, sanitation and education. The resumption of food aid assistance, which was suspended in January following the harvest, was consequently recommended.
- (af) During the reporting period, the launch of food for education in West Darfur was marked with dispatches in support of a pilot project targeting schoolchildren in six schools in Foro Buranga, Wadi Salih, Habilah and Gobe. The scheme, run in partnership with INTERSOS, the Ministry of Education and parent-teacher's associations, is currently providing school meals for over 3,000 pupils in the state. Subsequent monitoring visits have noted the enthusiasm and support for the initiative from the children, teachers and communities.
- (ag) Reports from partners in Kalma indicated an increase in cases of bloody diarrhoea in south Darfur, with approximately 90 cases reported in the last week. Meanwhile, WVI was in the process of verifying new arrivals at the camp who were mainly noted to be from Kucka, Um Kunya, Hassaballah, Ambaro, Towal and Es Safia.
- (ah) WFP and NRC carried out two rapid post harvest assessments in areas to the south of Nyala. The assessments were undertaken as part of a wider series currently ongoing across Darfur with the objective to establish the crop production and will be used to develop food intervention strategies up to the lean season.
- (ai) During the reporting period, WFP and partners identified food insecure rural areas of North Darfur, namely Gani, Tura, Um Kedada, Hamara and Damara areas and rural Kabkabiya, which will be targeted by needs assessments to inform the strategy for food assistance during the lean season. A complementary strategy will be developed for urban areas in the coming months to ensure that food aid reaches the most food insecure communities while discouraging migration.
- (aj) Registration and verification of new arrivals from Shearia, South Darfur by IOM and WFP partners was ongoing during the reporting period to identify those in need of humanitarian assistance. Recent fighting between armed rebels and government forces in the locality has led to the displacement of both residents and IDPs, some of whom to locations in North Darfur.
- (ak) In Jonglei, a total of 27,941 beneficiaries received 522 tons of food. Of the total reached, 22,038 beneficiaries received 371 tons in Pagak, Bor and Walgak under general food distribution. Another 5,904 beneficiaries received food assistance through Food-for-Education, Food-for-Asset and Food-for-Training. In Unity, 18,060 beneficiaries received 189 tons of food in Payienjar and Leer counties. Of the total, 2,000 were returnees and received 16 tons of food. In Upper Nile, WFP distributed 994 tons of food to 47,480 beneficiaries under general food distribution in various locations in the state. Of these, 20,987 returnees received 555 tons in Atar, Kaldak, Dolieb hills, Ogod, Khor Fulus and Tufugia locations. In Northern Bahr El Ghazal, 11,273 beneficiaries received 162 tons of food in Gok Machar and Terialiet locations. In Warrap, WFP distributed 324 tons to 28,260 beneficiaries in Gogrial West and Tonj counties. In Lakes, WFP assisted 11,328 beneficiaries in Yirol and Matiab with 181 tons of assorted commodities. In Western Bahr El Ghazal, WFP distributed 125 tons of food

to 8,000 IDPs in Wau camps.

- (al) WFP together with German Agro Action, the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission conducted a head count exercise in Bentiu, Rubkona and Guit counties in Unity state. Preliminary findings indicate the presence of 91,916 people comprising of vulnerable local residents, IDPs and returnees in these three areas as follows: 46,868 in Bentiu, 45,660 in Rubkona and 7,388 in Guit. Similar exercises will be carried out in Koch, Leer, Mirmir and Dablual next week. WFP carried out a general food distribution in Bentiu and Rubkona after completion of the head count exercise.
- (am) A joint team comprising of WFP and the International Relief and Development (IRD) carried out a needs assessment in the period 8-16 March in thirteen locations in the six payams of Meluth County. About 60 percent of the 48,000 population in the county suffer from severe food shortages due to poor rains, pests and lack of resources. The situation is compounded by the continued influx of returnees, further impacting on depleted coping mechanisms. The team recommended a verification and registration exercise to target the most vulnerable groups, followed by immediate provision of food assistance. A nutritional assessment was also recommended to verify reported signs of severe malnutrition among children and elderly people in the County.
- (an) WFP in collaboration with the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission conducted a needs assessment in Hai Matar in Malakal town during the reporting period. The assessment team identified and registered 1,950 of the most vulnerable local residents, IDPs and returnees in the area. The team recommended immediate food assistance to the registered population.
- (ao) WFP organized a one-day briefing workshop for participants in the rolling needs assessment that commenced in Red Sea (eastern Sudan) on 13 March. Participants included UNDP, Oxfam, ACCORD, International Rescue Committee, Sudanese Red Crescent, Ministry of Agriculture, Humanitarian Aid Commission and the Ministry of Health. The workshop trained enumerators on testing questionnaires and data collection techniques on the ground. A similar orientation workshop was conducted in Kassala with the participation of local government, UN Agencies and NGOs. The assessment will cover seven locations in Kassala in the period 19-26 March.
- (ap) WFP together with other UN Agencies and NGOs participated in a joint assessment mission, led by OCHA, in Kassala to assess the humanitarian situation and thus update the contingency plan for Hamash Koreib IDPs. The mission visited Hadalia, Matateib, Tahjer and Dabalawait A and B IDP camps, which are expected to receive new IDPs. The mission will visit the remaining camps of Odi and Togley next week.
- (aq) A logistics mission from WFP headquarters and the Regional Office in Khartoum visited Port Sudan, Red Sea. The purpose of the mission was to update the current COMPAS system in Port Sudan. The team visited WFP warehouses in Red Sea and the Port where WFP commodities are discharged.
- (ar) WFP plans to commence a registration and verification exercise for food-for-recovery beneficiaries in Halaieb and Sinkat provinces in Red Sea state during the first week of April 2006. WFP's Cooperating Partner, Oxfam, completed a registration and verification exercise in the Rural Port Sudan locality and the exercise is ongoing in Tokar locality. OXFAM plans to complete the remaining locations by mid-April 2006.
- (as) A WFP mission to South Korofan held comprehensive bilateral meetings with Cooperating Partner in Kadugli, Save the Children-US, and state authorities to discuss and finalize operational issues and collaboration in the state. Meetings discussed ongoing activities and means of adopting a common strategy. The mission proceeded to Kauda and discussed similar issues in addition to plans for food pre-positioning, Food-for-Education strategies and handover of activities following the new geographical division of the state as Kauda will fall under the supervision of Kadugli sub-office, as of

1 April. Progress was made towards better coordination of activities and information sharing. WFP also plans to enhance cooperation with other humanitarian agencies operational in South Kordofan.

- (at) WFP and Cooperating Partner, Save the Children-US finalized plans to commence verification and registration of beneficiaries next week. The exercise will cover Karkar, Ferish and Chawere areas.
- (au) Movement of returnees and refugees back to their areas of origin in Blue Nile state has reportedly increased. An influx of 2,243 IDP returnees was reported by rolling assessment team in Kelly payam, north Kurmuk locality during the reporting period. The returnees arrived from Sharkole camps to Kelly in the period 9-14 March. A UNHCR team reported that the first convoy of refugee returnees would commence moving from Bonga camp on 31 March and will arrive in Kurmuk on the first week of April proceeding to Chaille.
- (av) Furthermore, some 650 people, who returned from Ethiopia in 2004, arrived in Aburas village from Kor El Dahab located 37 km away from the village. Another 138 people arrived in Kashankaro from Bakori, 45 km away. These returnees are reportedly in need of humanitarian assistance, particularly food, in the coming months. WFP is currently verifying and registering returnees and vulnerable groups in Blue Nile. In addition, WFP is pre-positioning food commodities in Challie and Kurmuk to cover the requirements of returnees and other vulnerable groups from April through October 2006.
- (aw) The preliminary results of a nutrition survey conducted by GOAL in Kurmuk in February 2006 indicate a satisfactory nutrition status for children under the age of five. The Global Acute Malnutrition rate was reported at 5.7-11.2, while the Severe Acute Malnutrition rate at 0.6-1.8.
- (ax) WFP and CARE International distributed one-month rations totaling 121 tons of food commodities to 6,396 returnees through general food distribution. Distributions were undertaken in five villages in Kadugli namely Doloka, Katcha, Kafina, Mirri Barra and Kega Alkhil. CARE will distribute 1,025 tons of WFP food representing one-month rations to 31,849 registered returnees in Kadugli, Lagawa and Dilling localities through general distribution. WFP teams also reached 7,810 returnees in Lado with 127 tons of food commodities through general food distribution.
- (ay) WFP teams completed verification and registration exercise in 12 locations in Abyei area. Re-registration in the returnee village, Rumamer, was also conducted. The team was unable to proceed to four major areas north and west of Abyei town due to movement restrictions imposed on UN personnel by local authorities in Abyei.
- (az) The rolling assessment that commenced last week in North Kordofan State was completed on 24 March. The assessment covered 220 households in 19 locations in seven localities in the state. Preliminary results indicate that some communities, excluding IDPs, have food balances that will cover their requirements during the month of April. Results and recommendations are being finalized.
- (ba) WFP conducted a Food-for-Asset training workshop in El Obeid, North Kordofan state. Participants included counterparts in the Ministry of Agriculture, Planning Department, Water and Sanitation, Humanitarian Aid Commission, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and all the members of the Food-for-Asset State Technical Committee. The objectives of the training were to have a better understanding of the priority needs by area, to understand the required technical procedures and requirements, standardize Food-for-Asset implementation modalities and construction techniques, to set guidelines for sustainable community management, to have access to more practical and simplified food-for-asset work-norms and to mainstream gender issues in the food-for-asset interventions.

- (bb) During the reporting period, a total of 147 tons of assorted WFP food commodities were dispatched to Cooperating Partner, CARE International. The dispatched food will be distributed to 1,234 Food-for-Asset participants of whom 61 percent are women in seven hafir sites in North Kordofan state. CARE urged communities to complete activities at the remaining two hafir sites by the end of March 2006. WFP monitored Food-for-Asset hafir site in Tayba El Imama, North Kordofan state. Findings show the presence of 398 Food-for-Asset participants, 70 percent female. Women represent about 40 percent of the hafir construction committee members tasked with supervision and management of construction. Another field visit was conducted to Al Rawda hafir site where food distribution was taking place.
- (bc) The State Minister of Social Affairs held a meeting with the special committee tasked with following up the situation of returnees who have stayed for a long period in the wharf of Kosti, White Nile. The meeting parties decided to take further action in preparing the new wharf to accommodate the needs of the increasing number of returnees, in addition to expediting passenger barges and trips to be organized for Juba soon. In addition, the meeting recommended a workshop for the Federal Government, South Sudan Government, UN agencies and NGOs to discuss ways of facilitating safe return to the south. Recommendations will be submitted to the local government. During the reporting period, several barges left Kosti, White Nile to Juba, Bahr El Jebel carrying an estimated number of 1,000 returnees en route to their areas of origin.
- (bd) ADRA and IOM continued to track and monitor movement of returnees in Kosti wharf and bus stations. A total of 983 returnees (248 households) were identified returning to Upper Nile, Equatoria, Jonglei and Bahr El Ghazel States. The returnees origin are from, Khartoum, White Nile, Blue Nile, Gedarif, Kassala, Gezira and Red Sea. WFP and ADRA distributed three tons of High Energy Biscuits to 928 transit returnees (47 percent female) en route to Malakal, Upper Nile and Juba, Bahr El Jebel.
- (be) WFP conducted a rolling needs assessment in the period 21-27 March in four locations in White Nile, Sherahe West Dowem locality, Jabalain, Karchol and Dankuch. The objective of the assessment was to check the validity of the 2005 ANA recommendations for some areas. Initial findings indicate that the ANA recommendations are still valid in these areas with no need to revise in regard to food interventions.
- (bf) Emergency Operation 10503.0 has so far received contributions totalling US\$117 million, 16 percent of the US\$746m requirement. Due to the slow response to the appeal, shortfalls in certain commodities are currently anticipated from April onwards. In response, reductions in rations of pulses, sugar and salt have already been effected for up to 3.5 million people from March to mitigate the expected impact of the breaks. With a 50 percent cut in the rations of these commodities, only 1,950 kcal of the daily recommended intake of 2,100 kcal is being delivered with protein reduced by almost 10 percent. At the current resourcing level, and with limited borrowing ability this year, WFP will not be able to pre-position adequate stocks in remote locations that will become inaccessible during the rainy season.
- (bg) Humanitarian Air Service (WFP-HAS) Special Operation 10181.3 requires a total of US\$27 million in 2006. With monthly operating costs of over US\$2 million, donor support is vital to allow WFP-HAS to continue to provide services to the humanitarian community in Darfur and throughout Sudan. Initially, the consequences of the funding shortfall will lead to an imminent and sizeable reduction in both the fleet size and the frequency of flights. Ultimately, the air service will be suspended cutting off access to remote areas which are not covered by commercial operators and in many cases where humanitarian assistance is most needed. This will include the helicopter service in Darfur which provides access for the humanitarian community to locations inaccessible by land due to current and prevailing insecurity.

- (bh) Phase III of WFP's emergency road repairs and mine clearance Special Operation 10368.0 project in South Sudan faces a funding shortfall of US\$79.7 million. In the absence of funding, the project is now missing the beginning of the dry season for works under Phase III contracts.
- (bi) Under the Emergency Repairs and Upgrade of River Transport Infrastructure Special Operation 10412.0, WFP is also requesting for US\$13 million to augment barge capacity in Sudan under the Special Operation 10412.0. Contributions will be used to purchase two passenger barges as well as two pushers and eight cargo barges.

(9) Tanzania

- (a) A total of 2,679 refugees (470 Burundians and 2,209 Congolese) have voluntarily repatriated to their home between 1-26 March. During the same period, 4,734 asylum seekers arrived in western Tanzania.
- (b) The WFP refugee operation (PRRO) continues to distribute reduced rations in order to extend resources in anticipation of a shortfall expected in June. As a result, refugees were provided with a reduced ration of 287g maize grain (or 266g maize meal), 80g pulses, 40g corn-soya blend (CSB), 20g oil and 10g salt. The reduced ration provides refugees with a daily intake of 1,555 Kcal, which is 74 percent of the approved ration level. It is expected that WFP Tanzania will continue distributing reduced rations until June.
- (c) A Joint Needs Assessment Mission of the current Great Lakes Regional PRRO 10062.2 was initiated by WFP, UNHCR and FAO last week. The overall objective of the joint mission is to assess the need for and scope of a revised PRRO beyond 2006 since the current PRRO 10062.2 was approved by WFP Executive Board for only one year. The Joint Assessment Report is due in May 2006.
- (d) General distribution covers 360,079 registered refugees. During the past week, WFP distributed 1,258 tons of food through general distribution, supplementary and therapeutic feeding in refugee camps in western Tanzania. Around 7,750 food insecure and otherwise vulnerable Tanzanians in the host communities surrounding the camps were also supported with WFP host community activities, including access to camp-based health care facilities, school feeding, home based care, food-for-training and vulnerable feeding.
- (e) Since the last update on 22 March, the Netherlands contributed US\$ 241,000 in cash. The contribution is yet to be programmed. A shortfall of 25,157 tons (US\$ 15.6 million) exists up to the end of December 2006.

(10) Uganda

- (a) The UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr Jan Egeland, is visiting Uganda between 30 March and 2 April. He will meet with President Museveni to discuss Northern Uganda. On Thursday, 30 March, Mr Egeland met with the UN Country team, and is expected to meet with the World Bank on Friday, 31 March. He is also expected to hold a separate informal briefing with donor core group members and then meet NGOs. He will travel to Pader district, hosted by WFP, on 1 April.
- (b) A tripartite agreement has been signed by the Government of Uganda, Government of Sudan and UNHCR for the repatriation of Sudanese refugees residing in Uganda. Planning is underway to repatriate the first 4,000 individuals of the overall 130,000. WFP Uganda is working closely with UNHCR as well as with WFP Sudan to coordinate the operation.
- (c) WFP is finalising distribution of seeds and tools to 50,000 internally displaced persons

(IDPs) in Lira district to support people who are returning to their villages of origin.

- (d) WFP food distribution continues to reach 1.45 million displaced persons, 165,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the past two weeks, WFP distributed 4,804 tons of food assistance to 549,112 persons including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts, refugees, children in nutrition centres and other vulnerable persons.
- (e) Access to land around the IDP camps generally increased over the last 18 months due to a gradual reduction in violent LRA attacks. IDPs should have been able to provide 40 percent of their daily food needs starting January 2006, but will still require 60 percent from external sources until at least the July 2006 harvest. Without this assistance, malnutrition rates would significantly rise and the death rates of young children would increase rapidly.
- (f) WFP pipeline shortfall through December 2006 currently stands at 65,000 tons with pipeline breaks anticipated in June 2006.

(D) West Africa: (1) Cote d'Ivoire (2) Liberia

(1) Cote d'Ivoire

- (a) During the reporting period (23-29 March), the security situation was fairly calm overall the country except in the West and Korhogo region. The western area of Guiglo was in Security Phase 4. ONUCI is negotiating its return to Guiglo. Increasing robberies and criminal activities were reported in the region of Korhogo. M'bengue, Napie, Korhogo and Lataha were localities of concern. Security recommendations to UN staff remained unchanged. Caution and high vigilance was advised all over the country.
- (b) An agreement was signed on 24 March 2006 between the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the Ivorian Party of Workers (IPW) after the IPW has threatened to leave the IEC. Though it was present at Linas Marcoussis, the Party had no position within the IEC. It has then been agreed to appoint the IPW representative as the special adviser of the IEC chairman.
- (c) The Minister of the Economic Infrastructures conducted a mission in Korhogo on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 March 2006 to find a sustainable solution to the problem of insufficient supply of potable water in Korhogo. As a preliminary measure, technicians have been asked to assess the possibility of joining the installations of the National Society for Water Distribution to the Bandama river at Boundiali, 35 kms far from Korhogo. 800 local forages will be installed as part of the hydraulic programme and a technical manager for the Hydraulic will be redeployed. The Ministry has also requested the support of the local humanitarian agencies.
- (d) According to the last statistics of the Ministry of Education, the level of participation to the examinations for the Certificat d'Etudes Primaires et Elémentaires (CEPE), that have been held on Tuesday 14 March 2006 in the Forces Nouvelles zones, is 71.4 per cent, with 38,657 children attending out of 54,086 enrolled.
- (e) During the reporting period, WFP delivered a total of 274 tons food to 30,598 beneficiaries through its sub-offices.
- (f) As part of the voluntary repatriation programme that is organised weekly by UNCHR, WFP provided a one-day ration to 200 refugees in transit for Liberia.
- (g) The WFP and FAO joint mission continued the assessment of agriculture and food needs in the Denguele region (Odiene), northwest of Man.
- (h) The WFP deputy country director conducted a mission to Bouake, Korogho and Man sub-offices. The mission had meetings with the Cooperating Partners and field level agreements for 2006 have been signed to support nutrition activities, school feeding,

people living with HIV Aids, orphans and other vulnerable children. WFP-assisted sites were also visited.

- (i) WFP and the other humanitarian agencies are preparing for their return to Guiglo. In the meantime the WFP Guiglo sub-office has been reequipped with ICT materials in compliance with the minimum office security standards.
- (j) As of 29 March 2006, the regional Protracted Recovery and Relief Operation (PRRO) Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina, Ghana, Mali received a total of 35.1 million US dollars against the operational needs of 50.1 million US dollars (29.7 percent shortfall or 14.9 million US dollars against operational requirements). Additional funding is required in order to avo

(2) Liberia

- (a) During the reporting period (20-26 March), the general security situation in Liberia was calm but tense due to reports of escape and arrest of the former Liberian President Charles Taylor in Nigeria. In Voinjama, Lofa County, a gang broke into the WFP warehouse on March 26 and stole seven cartons of vegetable oil. The Liberian National Police (LNP) located their base and recovered the stolen items. The thieves were also arrested and are presently in the LNP cells in Voinjama town.
- (b) Protests and disorder from the ex-combatants over non-payment of benefits were reported in Monrovia, Buchanan (Grand Bassa County) and Zorzor (Lofa County). Measures are being put in place to address these issues on time to avert disturbances caused by payment disputes between ex-combatants and the implementing partners.
- (c) Between 22-26 March, a joint meeting was held in the three Mano River countries (Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone) in Foya, Lofa County. The meeting discussed sub-regional peace and capacity building amongst the Mano River states and Guinean troop's occupation in some towns in Sierra Leone. The Vice President of Liberia, the Prime Minister of Guinea and the Sierra Leone Finance Minister represented the three countries.
- (d) General food distribution was carried out at the Saclepea Refugee Camp in Nimba County, reaching 1,082 beneficiaries with a total of 36 tons of food. Due to some logistical constraints at WFP Saclepea Sub office, the beneficiaries received two months food rations (March and April) to enable the sub office focus on school feeding and resettlement activities in April. Sensitization was carried out to the refugees by LRRRC, WFP, and UNHCR and explained the reasons for the two months food rations distributed.
- (e) A total of 1,233 tons of food was distributed to 165,919 beneficiaries under the various feeding programs, of which 55 percent was delivered to schools and 33 percent distributed under the resettlement program.
- (f) During the reporting period, a total of 413 tons of food was distributed to some 12,450 IDPs and returning refugees under the resettlement programme. Distribution of the first tranche resettlement package was completed in Conneh IDP camp (second last IDP camp). Over 250 persons categorized as the 'missing ration card group' were verified and given the resettlement food package. However, up to the final day of food distribution, most IDPs were still in the camps and appeared reluctant to depart. Some of those interviewed mentioned that they planned to wait until the closing of school term to allow their children complete the school calendar year.
- (g) The resettlement exercise commenced in Buchanan IDP camp (the last IDP camp) and majority of the 11,000 IDPs in the camp had received their first tranche by end of the week.
- (h) Completion of distribution of the first tranche in Buchanan IDP camp will mark the end

of food distribution in IDP camps in Liberia. Meanwhile, distribution of the second tranche will continue in the various locations where returnees have been resettled. WFP expects to complete the second tranche distribution by July 2006.

- (i) As of March 24, 2006, a total of 60,573 returnees have been repatriated by UNHCR and 320,759 that were residing in over 35 IDP camps in Liberia de-registered. Of the population resettled and deregistered, 48,175 returnees and 291,960 IDPs qualify to receive food resettlement package. Of which, some 34,050 returnees (71 percent) and 243,787 IDP beneficiaries (83.50 percent) have completed receiving their four months resettlement food package.
- (j) Under the Emergency School Feeding (ESF), WFP delivered a total of 677 tons of food to feed an estimated 142,383 school children located in various counties including Lofa, Maryland, Montserrado, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Cape Mount and Bong. In Lofa County, three schools received Non-Food Items.
- (k) Under the Food Support for Local Initiatives (FSLI), a total of 39 tons of assorted food commodities was distributed to 3,932 persons involved in various FSLI projects including skills training programs for ex-combatants and road rehabilitation projects. WFP and Cooperating Partners continued to assess community projects that can be supported through FSLI programme. In Nimba County, an assessment team led by WFP Saclepea office visited seven agriculture projects located in Saclepea Mah Districts. The projects assessed included Fish ponds, Crocodile ponds and vegetable gardens. All of the projects assessed are community based and their proposals will be reviewed for possible food assistance through FSLI.
- (l) WFP distributed a total of 68 Mt of food to 5,617 beneficiaries in various institutions under the Nutrition Intervention Programs.
- (m) Additional pledges and resources are still needed to avert food shortfalls of 2,138 tons expected over the next six months, April – September valued at USD \$1.6 Million. The shortfalls include 1,624 tons of cereals, 416 tons of pulses and 98 tons of vegetable oil.
- (n) WFP started loading of various assorted food commodities in containers to be shipped to Harper Sub office. A total of 180 tons will be shipped on an UNMIL chartered vessel M/V “Catherina” to Harper. Due to the bad road conditions, WFP depends on UNMIL sea transport to deliver food aid to Harper, Maryland County.
- (o) During the reporting period, a total of 1,517 tons of assorted food commodities was dispatched from Monrovia to various sub offices in the country, in continuation of the March 2006 food distributions.
- (p) Data collection for the comprehensive food security and nutrition survey continued during the reporting period, with no major constraints. Data collection is expected to be completed by end of April throughout the country. The survey is being conducted with the support of four Government Ministries, Liberia Institute of Statistics, UNICEF, WHO, FAO, UNMIL, UNDP, CRS, World Vision, Africare and LINNK.
- (q) During the reporting period, WFP was involved in the preparation of a Joint Action Plan (JAP) with UNHCR. The first draft of the action plan was prepared and is still under review by both parties. A meeting has been scheduled to review the final draft on April 03, at UNDP.
- (r) The Ministry of Education held a one –day consultation meeting in Gbarnga, Bong County with all the District Education Officers from the 15 Counties and the school feeding plan for 2006 was one of the main issues discussed during the meeting. The Ministry also informed the Education Officers about the coming ‘Walk the World – Fight Hunger’ global event and encouraged them to participate in the walk in May 2006.
- (s) In an effort to boost the network security for WFP Country Office, web monitor security scanner software was installed and successfully tested on the network. ICT assessment

missions to Zwedru, Voinjama and Harper Sub-Offices were also completed during the reporting period.

(E) Southern Africa: (1) Angola (2) Botswana (3) Lesotho (4) Malawi (5) Mozambique (6) Swaziland (7) Zambia (8) Zimbabwe

(1) Angola

- (a) WFP's food aid operation aimed at supporting the return and resettlement process will end on 31 March, with a new operation planned to follow immediately. The new project will last three years (April 2006/March 2009) and will focus on providing food assistance to the education and health sectors in conflict-affected communities of Angola. An estimated 711,000 beneficiaries will receive assistance at a total cost of USD87 million. Donor support is required to ensure that the new programme gets off to a solid start.
- (b) On Monday 27 March, the Luanda Provincial Department of Education (DPE), in partnership with WFP, launched the first School Feeding scheme in the country's capital. During the first phase of implementation, 15,000 primary school children will receive two nutritious meals per day at school. The target is to increase this to 50,000 by the end of 2006. The programme will focus exclusively amongst the poorest of Luanda's municipalities. Upon country-wide implementation, approximately 320,000 children will benefit from the programme.
- (c) According to a recent FEWSNET report, approximately 40,000 people were displaced due to heavy rainfall in several villages bordering with the Democratic Republic of Congo. Just over 1,600 homes and accompanying farm fields have been destroyed.

(2) Botswana

- (a) Child mortalities continue to escalate with a cumulative total of approximately 21,000 cases and 400 deaths as a result of a severe diarrhoea outbreak in Botswana. Laboratory tests have indicated two different subtypes of crypto parasites that are found in humans, indicating the outbreak probably came from human sewage. Since the onset of diarrhoea, there have been increasing cases of malnutrition, especially marasmus and kwashiorkor in some communities. As water supplies have been found to be contaminated, the Ministry of Health organized a meeting with representatives from water supply and environmental authorities where an action plan was drawn for the most immediate actions.

(3) Lesotho

- (a) During the reporting period (22-28 March), WFP and Cooperating Partners provided food to an estimated 36,000 people. Beneficiaries were participants in HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, mother and childcare, orphans and other vulnerable children programmes, as well as Food-for-Work (FFW) and Food-for-Assets (FFA) projects.
- (b) Results of a joint study undertaken by WFP and the Disaster Management Authority indicate 190,000 people living in Lesotho's most impoverished areas have little access to basic food requirements and face chronic food insecurity. Approximately 80 percent of the households were affected by HIV/AIDS with household members either too weak to farm or earn a living, or the family members were made up of high numbers of children and/or elderly.

(4) Malawi

- (a) The price of maize in the southern region of Malawi has been steadily decreasing as people begin to harvest their crops. However, prices in the central and northern region

have not changed significantly, and in some areas are rising. ADMARC depot supplies have increased but sales are dependent on local harvest and market situations.

(5) Mozambique

- (a) The harvest has begun in most areas of the southern and central provinces (Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Sofala, Tete, and Zambézia). According to the Provincial Directorates of Agriculture, this season's prospects are favourable. However, irregular rainfall, floods, disease and pests are responsible for reduced crops as well as animal loss in Manica and Sofala provinces.
- (b) Significant rainfall was reported in most provinces of the south and centre of the country. However, the trend in river levels is still decreasing. The Zambezi River is still above the flood alert level in Caia and Marromeu (Sofala Province).

(6) Swaziland

- (a) According to a March update from the Ministry of Agriculture, the country's total cereal requirement for the 2005/2006 agricultural season currently stands at 183,000 tons. Currently there is a projected domestic cereal availability of approximately 83,000 tons, which is comprised of 71,600 tons of maize, 10,600 tons of wheat and 400 tons of rice. The report further indicates an overall domestic shortfall of 106,400 tons.
- (b) Field reports indicate the recent rainfall received in the Lowveld and Lubombo Plateau has been beneficial for pastures and there has been visible improvement in the condition of livestock. Farmers in the area, however, report the rains are negatively affecting those crops planted in November/December 2005, which are at the drying stage, whilst late-planted crops are already flowering.

(7) Zambia

- (a) A phase-down of WFP's emergency relief distribution programme is currently underway with the Government, WFP and Cooperating Partners are working on a reduction strategy to be implemented as of 1 April 2006. Approximately 600,000 people will continue to need food assistance, which will be met through relief and recovery activities under the regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO).
- (b) There has been a cholera outbreak in Kapiri Mposhi town (Central Province). Public gatherings have been banned and WFP distributions in urban areas have been affected. Since 20 March, 35 people have been admitted in the hospital and two people have died. Distributions in the outskirts of the town have not been affected.
- (c) Crop assessments by local government officials in Itezhi Tezhi District (Southern Province) indicate excessive rainfall in the district has led to poor crop development. Fertilizer and nutrients needed for growth have been washed away and maize is showing signs of stunted growth. The food security situation in the district is reported to be precarious and long term food security is not assured due to expected low yields.
- (d) Heavy rainfall continues in Kazungula District (Southern Province). Flood victims are living in makeshift camps that are now accommodating more than 1,000 people, who are receiving food and Non-Food Items. While the Zambian Police and Army are working to relocate the flood-affected, some households have yet to be ferried to higher ground. The floods are reported to be the worst since 1958.

(8) Zimbabwe

- (a) In Mashonaland Central Province, farmers have started harvesting maize, which has led to decreased market prices. However, Masvingo Province is still experiencing maize grain price hikes, with a 43 percent increase in Chiredzi District over the past three

weeks.

- (b) Monitoring reports continued to indicate inadequate stocks coming from the Grain Marketing Board (GMB), and that food aid is the main source of cereals, with households having depleted their stocks from last season's harvest. In Lupane District, the District Administrator reports the GMB was able to supply 90 tons of grain, meeting only 25 percent of the district's weekly food requirement. According to community representatives, food shortages have resulted in most people harvesting immature crops and eating wild food.

(F) Asia: (1) Myanmar (2) Philippines

(1) Myanmar

- (a) During the reporting period (16-29 March), under the Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10345.1, a total of 136 tons of rice was dispatched to Lashio and Pang Kham for Food-for-Education, Food-for-Work and Vulnerable Group Feeding activities. In Kokang, 2 months food ration was distributed as an emergency response to 26 households affected by fire outbreak in Konchan Village Tract. Notes on food security situation have been prepared by WFP sub-offices for the EMOP evaluation and formulation mission.
- (b) Under the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10066.2, a total of 130 tons of mixed food commodities were dispatched to Maungdaw and Magway for Vulnerable Group Feeding and Food-for-Work activities. Food-for-Education workshop and Emergency Food Security Analysis training were conducted in Northern Rakhine State.
- (c) The Government of the Union of Myanmar has announced that with effect from the 1st of April, the Government will raise the salaries of the Government servants by 5 to 10 folds. As a result, sharp rise in the prices of essential commodities and goods have been observed. Electronic Records Management Programme (ERMP) orientation and hands-on training were provided for ERMP roll out in Myanmar Country Office.
- (d) NGO Cooperating Partner, World Vision will withdraw its presence from Pin Laung at the end of May because it was unable to plan for an area development project, to obtain MOU with the Government and to raise matching funds due to current on-going poppy cultivation. WFP field office in Mong Maw in the WA area was officially inaugurated on 17 March.
- (e) On 18 March 2006, NGO Cooperating Partner ADRA was asked by the WA authorities to leave Wa under the claim of "engaging in political activities". After rounds of negotiations facilitated by WFP, Wa authorities have allowed ADRA to remain in WA on the condition that ADRA replaces its national staff. ADRA has confirmed that it will withdraw two of its national staff.

(2) Philippines

- (a) During the reporting period (16-29 March), the general situation in the Philippines remained calm but unpredictable due to the ongoing investigation into the foiled coup attempt of 24 February. Senior officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Elite Police Special Action Force were arrested in connection with the coup attempt. Senior Generals have warned that though the key elements have been arrested, the threat remains real.
- (b) In Mindanao the situation was generally calm. Security has been beefed up at military and government installations and at police detachments in preparation for the anniversary of the founding of the New Peoples' Army (NPA) on 29 March. The NPA

has a record of staging ambushes or surprise attacks on military or police outposts, usually in the remote villages, to dramatize its continuing struggle for the establishment of a communist state in the country.

- (c) There was a bomb attack on a shopping area in Jolo City, Sulu Province. Ten people were killed and a few others injured. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. In Occidental, Luzon, five persons were killed in a shoot-out between suspected communist fighters of the NPA and the AFP. WFP operations in Mindanao have not been affected by the incidents.
- (d) WFP will be working in five provinces in Mindanao: Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato. Two of the provinces, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao, form part of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and are particularly affected by population displacement as a result of the conflict. It is estimated that the Emergency Operation (EMOP) will reach 60 percent of the populations in the conflict affected targeted areas.
- (e) WFP implemented a total of seven activities under the EMOP, including school-feeding for primary school children, Food-for-Work/Food-for-Training for vulnerable conflict affected populations, resettlement support for internally displaced people and a Mother and Child Nutrition programme for pregnant and lactating women and children under the age of two.
- (f) WFP has identified the German Technical Co-operation (GTZ) as a technical partner for the EMOP and a GTZ-consultant has arrived from Germany to work with WFP. At present the collaboration will extend to two target provinces: Lanao del Norte and Sultan Kudarat, with the purpose of helping partner NGOs and Local Government Units to implement the programme along with complimentary inputs for the different interventions. GTZ is also interested in supporting WFP with monitoring and evaluation for all five target provinces, including impact assessment, learning from each other, best case studies being highlighted etc. More cooperative partners are being identified both for coordination support, technical and Non-Food Items support as well as implementation of the programme activities.
- (g) The port assessments for the five target ports in Mindanao have been completed and Port of Polluc is being considered as point of entry for WFP cargos. A weekly liner from Manila calls on the port permitting containerized cargos. Warehouse facilities in connection with the port are available for use of WFP and permits the shortest routes to operational areas.
- (h) The transport assessment is underway and should be completed by 1 April. Transport into the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) areas will be difficult to manage with non-ARMM based transporters. Costs of transport into many areas of Maguindanao Province will be at premium rates due to marsh and security. Transporters in the ARMM areas are limited and there are indications that there is insufficient uplift capacity.
- (i) A draft plan of the logistics network is nearing completion and awaiting confirmation of Cooperation Partner involvement in tertiary transport and warehousing. LTSH matrix is in progress and will be finalized on completion of the logistics network plan. The logistics assessment of services and facilities in Manila will be conducted next week. This will include port, superintendents, shipping agents and the Ministry of Transport.
- (j) Out of the US\$27 million needed, WFP Philippines has so far received IRA/DSC/ODOC-advances of around US\$2.5 million to start up operations. Part of this has been repaid. During the reporting period, WFP received confirmation of a US\$1.2 million donation for the EMOP.
- (k) WFP is re-establishing a presence in the Philippines with an emergency operation that

will feed 2.1 million people in Mindanao in support of the peace process. The operation is currently in the preparation stage and the food distributions are scheduled to commence in June when schools resume. Prior to this, WFP intends to implement a smaller pilot of all the planned activities as a test run with new Cooperating Partners.

- (l) WFP attended the Mindanao Working Group (MWG) meeting in Davao on 17 March and gave a presentation on the planned EMOP 10489.0/ activities. The meeting is chaired by the World Bank and the Office of the President's Advisor on the Peace Process (OPAPP) and brings together stakeholder from Government, local authorities, donors, international and non-governmental organizations.

(G) Latin America and Caribbean: (1) Bolivia (2) Colombia (3) Cuba (4) Guatemala (5) Nicaragua (6) Peru

(1) Bolivia

- (a) During the reporting period (24-30 March), the government of Bolivia released an official report on the actions to take on for rehabilitation after the emergency. It is estimated that losses add up to 260 million dollars; however, the negative impact over employment and income has not yet been quantified. General strikes started on Thursday 30 March, by health, education and transport sector. Two foreign suspects were arrested last week accused of having set two bomb blasts on Tuesday 21st in the city of La Paz.
- (b) As of Wednesday 29th March, an estimated 13,043 affected families have received 340 tons of food aid in the Departments of Santa Cruz, Beni and La Paz.
- (c) During the reporting period, Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP 10511.0) 38 tons of food was distributed to more than 1,340 families in the Department of Santa Cruz and La Paz. WFP intends to assist 9,000 families for a period of 10 months in the Departments of Santa Cruz, Beni and La Paz, as IR-EMOP resources will meet requirements of the affected families for a maximum period of 60 days.

(2) Colombia

- (a) Colombian authorities have reported that 34 people have died and 50 are severely wounded due to landslides, flash floods and other damages caused by heavy rains associated to the winter wave. The National Emergency Agency reported that an estimated 37,000 Colombians were affected. Colombian authorities have declared 15 of the 32 provinces on alert due to the non-stop rain affecting the regions.
- (b) The situation was tense in the southwestern Province of Nariño. On 27 March, the Colombian Institute of Geology and Mining (Ingeominas) declared a "level two" alert due to increased activity of the Galeras volcano. Several communities around the volcano are at high risk and could be evacuated. Temporary shelters have been created by the Colombian Government in Pasto and other municipalities. WFP has made emergency plan in case the volcano erupts and emergency humanitarian aid is required. WFP Colombia intends to install a new satellite Office in this province as part of PRRO 10366.
- (c) Displacements were reported in the Province of Bolivar. some 15 families fled from rural areas of María la Baja (Province of Bolivar) due to threats issued by illegal armed groups. Most of these families are temporarily settled in the outskirts of Cartagena. WFP Cartagena is evaluating the situation in order to provide emergency food aid.
- (d) According to the Presidential Agency for Social Action (Accion Social) office, an estimated 220 people were displaced last week in the Province of Antioquia: Municipalities of Betania, Granada, Montebello, Nariño, Anori, Santa Bárbara, Cañas

Gordas, Chigorodó and Vigía del Fuerte. An estimated 60 displaced people are temporarily settled in the municipal and in need of humanitarian assistance.

- (e) A WFP convoy delivered emergency food aid to 9 indigenous communities in Province of Antioquia. This was done with Cooperating Partners: the Catholic Church, UNHCR and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
- (f) The security situation remained tense in various provinces of Colombia. For WFP activities in the Province of Antioquia were temporarily suspended.
- (g) The security situation was tense in the Province of Norte de Santander. Rebels have declared this part of the province a no-drive zone and have burned some vehicles to retaliate. An estimated 900 people approximately from Santa Inés, Miralindo, el Safarito, La Nueve, Santana, Río Negro, Junín, el Diamante and Murillo were affected by the blockade.
- (h) Under the Protracted And Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10366, "Assistance to People Displaced by Violence", WFP provided 589 tons of food in 11 provinces reaching to 64,322 beneficiaries, especially in, Food-for-Work, Food-for Training, School and Preschool Feeding, Nursing and Expectant Mothers and Emergency Food Aid.

(3) Cuba

- (a) Drought persists in the eastern provinces; including the Province of Camagüey.
- (b) Distribution under Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10423.0 continued during the reporting period (20-30 March). 544 tons of vegetable oil, 893 tons of rice, 653 tons of black beans, were delivered to Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, Granma province, and Eastern provinces. Procurement of 233 tons of vegetable oil and 368 tons of beans through WFP regional office has just been requested to cover urgent needs for one month.
- (c) EMOP 10423.0 is resourced at 20% thanks to WFP multilaterals and Japanese funding. The operation also received IRA 1.2 million. US\$ 2,953,800 is urgently needed to meet outstanding requirements.
- (d) Drought persists in the eastern provinces including the Province of Camagüey; meanwhile, overall rainfall levels continue to be lower than average for the period.

(4) Guatemala

- (a) WFP and Cooperating Partners during the regular food monitors meetings presented parameters for implementing Food-for-Work (FFW) activities for the next distribution. The participants provided to WFP their contributions to update a document that will be the base for creating awareness in the communities selected for the FFW. Food monitors were in San Marcos, Quetzaltenango and Jutiapa to follow-up on food distributions.
- (b) In the Department of Huehuetenango, Front for the defense of Guatemalan women's rights (CODEFEM) expressed their willingness to participate in Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10497. WFP is coordinating with National Fund for Peace (FONAPAZ) in order to involve them in the implementation of next distribution.
- (c) During the period (20-30 March), a total of 7,241 families were assisted with 619 tons of food in 6 departments: Escuintla, Jutiapa, San Marcos, Santa Rosa, Chimaltenango and Quetzaltenango.
- (d) A total of 489 tons of food was delivered from March 23-29 to the Departments of Chimaltenango, Escuintla, Jutiapa, and San Marcos.
- (e) During the reporting period, the EMOP 10497 borrowed 50 tons of food commodities

from the Country Programme 10092, prolonging pipeline breaks. 515 tons were repaid by the EMOP 10497. The amount resourced was at US\$ 8,140,737 or 57.7 percent of the appealed made to the international community last October 2005.

(5) Nicaragua

- (a) The labor conflict in the health sector continued without a solution. As a result, medical attention at public health centers has not been provided since the 18th of January. The situation has affected WFP assistance to the vulnerable groups. WFP continues monitoring the situation.
- (b) Under the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10212, an estimated 56,700 school children in the Northern Autonomous Atlantic Region (RAAN) are benefiting under the Food-for-Education programme. Due to the prolonged medical labor conflict, a reduced number of Mother and Child Health Care beneficiaries receiving food rations. An estimated 994 pregnant and lactating women and, 1,670 children under the age of two are benefiting from the food distributions.
- (c) WFP urgently needs resources to avoid pipeline break and continue to provide assistance to families living in the remote areas. The PRRO 10212.0 will experience shortfalls for the next six months, beginning in April, of 726 tons, 1,114 tons of maize, 204 tons of beans and 136 tons of vegetable oil.

(6) Peru

- (a) During the reporting period (20-30 March), heavy rains in the Lambayeque Region damaged crops and many families were affected in the Province of Lambayeque. The National Food Aid Program intends to distribute 10 kilo food bags to the affected families.

Note: All tonnage figures in this report refer to metric tons

WFP Weekly Emergency Report

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